

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Edward Markey
Ranking Member, House Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hastings and Representative Markey,

For submission to the hearing record: Full Committee Oversight Hearing on "The Impact of the Administration's Wild Lands Order on Jobs and Economic Growth".

As recreation business owners and outfitters, we are part of an industry that contributes \$730 billion to the U.S. economy, supports 6.5 million jobs and generates about \$88 billion in state and national tax revenue. We write in support of the Department of Interior's commitment to its multiple-use mission as set forth in Secretarial Order 3310.

Our businesses depend on public land so consumers have a place to recreate using the products and services we sell. The economic value of these open spaces and rivers is not in doubt - it is a proven resource on which our businesses and an array of other related businesses depend to ensure current and future profitability.

Secretarial Order 3310 directs the Bureau of Land Management to better meet its fundamental multiple use mandate by inventorying "lands with wilderness characteristics" and protecting appropriate areas of these wild lands through its existing land management planning process, which includes continuous opportunities for local officials and communities to participate. Congress can rely on this inventory and planning as a basis for considering designation of wilderness areas—a power exclusively reserved to Congress. These wild lands form the very core of our businesses, as the places our clients seek out to enjoy the most natural qualities of the public lands.

We have found, and research by the Outdoor Industry Association confirms, that conservation of public lands is good business. Rural counties with wilderness or other protected federal lands experience greater economic and population growth than those without wilderness. Protected lands have the greatest influence on economic growth in isolated rural counties that lack easy

access to larger markets. Between 1970 and 2000, real per capita income in these counties with protected land grew more than 60 percent faster than isolated counties without any protected land.

This Order does not in any way displace or weaken the important role that Congress plays in the decision to make permanent any area as wilderness. Wilderness designation remains the prerogative of Congress. The Order simply acknowledges the clear wording of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that mandates that the Department of Interior inventory the resources and other values of our public land, make appropriate land use decisions through its public planning process, better equipping itself to advise the Congress.

We believe Congress should support this fundamental tool for the protection of our public lands and we encourage members across the western states to support a public process on the issue of the wild character of many of our public lands, which are of enormous value to local and regional economies.

Sincerely,

John Olivas
JACO Outfitters, LLC
Holman, New Mexico

Bill Cunningham & Polly Burke
High Country Adventures
Choteau, MT

Karen and Jack Hooker
Montana Mountain View Ranch
Dell, MT

Connie Long
Wilderness Outdoor Adventures
Missoula, MT

Susan Hand, Owner
Willow Canyon Outdoor
Kanab, UT

Steve Roberts
Escalante Outfitters
Escalante, UT

Campy Campton
KODI Rafting
Dillon, CO

Bill Dvorak
Bill Dvorak Kayak and Rafting Expeditions
Nathrop, CO

Glen Randall
Glenn Randall Photography
Boulder, CO

Ned Parker
Breckenridge Outfitters
Breckenridge, CO

Glenn Morse
Gore Range Outfitters
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Stuart Wilde
Wild Earth Llama Adventures
Taos, NM

Bob Granstrom
Buffalo Mountain Outfitters
Buffalo, WY

Dave Willis
Sierra Treks
Ashland, OR

Teague Hatfield
FootZone of Bend
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Jackson Streit
Mountain Angler
Breckenridge, CO

Alison Mathes
Arkansas Valley Adventures
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Bahnof Sport
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Pete Reynolds
Breckenridge SKI Shop
Breckenridge, CO

Steve Davis
AB Ski Rental
Frisco, CO

Greg Abernathy
Lonestar Sports
Breckenridge, CO

Alan Blado
Liquid Descent
Idaho Springs, CO

Kevin Kahle
Rebel Sports
Frisco, CO

Suzi Mirus
Summit Travel
Frisco, CO

Tom Kleinschnitz
Adventure Bound
Grand Junction, CO

Jed Ward
All American Adventures
Idaho Springs, CO

Mike Kissack
American Adventure Expeditions
Buena Vista, CO

Bob Hamel
Arkansas River Tours
Cotapaxi, CO

Duke Bradford
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Jim Ingram
Aspen Whitewater Rafting
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Dan McMahon
Blazing Adventures
Snowmass Village, CO

Patrick Drake
Blue Sky Adventures
Glenwood Springs, CO

Coby Vidakovich
Buffalo Joe's Whitewater Rafting
Buena Vista, CO

Jahvea Vidakovich
Cottonwood Country Snowmobile Tours
Buena Vista, CO

Jahvea and Coby Vidakovich
Four Corners Expeditions
Nathrop, CO

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Centennial Canoe Outfitters
Centennial, CO

John Rice
Clear Creek Rafting
Idaho Springs, CO

Andy Neinas
Echo Canyon River Expeditions
Canon City, CO

Gary Hanson
Glenwood Canyon Rafting
Glenwood Springs, CO

Al DeGrange
Gunnison River Expeditions
Delta, CO

Alex Mickel
Mild to Wild Rafting and Jeep Trail Tours
Durango, CO

Micah Salazar
Noah's Ark Whitewater Rafting
Buena Vista, CO

Dennis Weid
Raft Masters
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John Donaldson
River Runners
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Bob Harris
River Rats
Snowmass Village, CO

Ben Olson
Black Canyon Anglers
Austin, CO

Mark Schumacher
Three Rivers Outfitting
Almont, CO

CC:
Secretary Ken Salazar
BLM Director Bob Abbey

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman, Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member, Energy and Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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